Upgradation of Rajkot airport

1498. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AAI is to acquire land from the railway authroity for the purpose of upgradation of Rajkot airport;

(b) whether the railway authority has agreed to give land to the AAI and by when the land will be transferred from railway authority;

(c) whether it is a fact that AAI has prepared a development plan of Rs. 60 crores for upgradation of Rajkot airport; and

(d) by when the AAI proposes to complete that work of upgradation at Rajkot airport?

THE MINISTER OF SATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway Authorities had not earlier agreed to provide the land. However, they are being pursuaded to reconsider the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Initiation of upgradation works by Airports Authority of India (AAI) is subject to land being made available by the Railway Authorities and diversion of Rajkot-Jamnagar Highway by the State Government of Gujarat.

Foreign pilots in aviation sector

1499. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private airlines have been permitted to operate within and outside India;

(b) if so, the details of private airlines permitted thus during the last three years, with number of aircrafts in possession of each airlines and sectors operated by them;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of trained pilots in the country;

(d) if so, whether airlines have been permitted to hire pilots of foreign origin,

(e) if so, the details thereof with number of such pilots with each airlines;

(f) whether security issues involved in such appointment have been addressed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years two of the existing private scheduled domestic operators *viz* Jet Airways and Air Sahara were permitted to operate to foreign destinations and six new airlines started operations in the domestic sector as per details given below:—

Airlines	Year of permit	No. of aircraft	No. of sectors being operated
1. Kingfisher Airlines	2005	24	29
2. Spicejet	2005	11	14
3. Go Air	2005	06	13
4. Paramount Airways	2005	05	08
5. IndiGo	2006	08	13
6. Indus Airways	2006	01	03

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The number of foreign pilots with each airlines is as follows:-

Jet Airways-117, Air Sahara-15, Air Deccan-131, Kingfisher Airline-48, Spicejet-17, Go Air-20, Paramount Airways-17, IndiGo-04, Blue Dart (Cargo)-15.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Security clearance by the competent authority in the Government is a mandatory condition for granting permission to a foreign pilot to operate in India.